

# Harpeth River

## Sustainability Features

### Natural and Historic Area

This unique linear park located along the Harpeth River in Middle Tennessee offers natural, cultural, and recreational day use areas rich in historic significance and natural beauty.

Visitors can experience the park's natural beauty by simply floating down the river. Canoe access areas are located at all sites providing paddlers of all skill levels the opportunity to float this beautiful class II river. Hidden Lake is a section of the park that is a naturalist's paradise featuring hiking trails, soaring limestone bluffs and abundant wildlife.

The park also has a rich history dating back hundreds of years to the Mississippian Period. Two archeological sites within the park offer insight into Native American culture. The Narrows of the Harpeth features the Montgomery Bell tunnel a 290ft tunnel carved into the limestone bluffs in 1819 to generate power for a local iron-manufacturing operation. Today, the tunnel is a National Historic Landmark.

### Hiking

For your hiking and wildlife viewing pleasure, there are several miles of easy to difficult trails meandering through wildflower meadows, lush

forests, and along limestone bluffs. At the Narrows of the Harpeth several trails originate at a common trailhead near the park entrance. A half-mile bluff overlook trail includes a steep ascent to a narrow bluff offering hikers a panoramic view of the Harpeth Valley. A half-mile trail along the backside of the limestone bluff leads to the site of Montgomery Bell's Pattison Forge where a small waterfall is all that remains of the iron forge operation. At Gossett Tract a one mile trail circles a meadow and another one mile trail winds along the river providing a glimpse of Mound Bottom Archeological Site.

## Park Highlights

- The park is not a single piece of land; it is scattered throughout ten locations in the southern part of Cheatham County and the southwestern part of Davidson County
- Artifacts recovered from the Mounds Bottom Archeological Site during an early 1970's excavation are on display at the park office at Montgomery Bell State Park

